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INTERNATIONAL WHITE SLAVERY

"Most of the countries of Latin America, the Near East and Asia are still to be heard from.

"The information thus secured is, after a process of comparison and selection, made the basis for the purchase of the most important legal works of the respective foreign countries. It has been considered advantageous, upon the arrival in the library of a sufficient number of such works, to make public the resources of our foreign law collection. This undertaking is to consist of the preparation by the Law Librarian, of guides to foreign law and critical surveys of the important literature. The first publication, a guide to the law and legal literature of Germany, is to appear in February. The surveys for Austria-Hungary, France, Italy, Spain and the other countries of Europe are to follow, it being proposed to publish two or three monographs a year. These guides are to serve as introductions to foreign law for the American lawyer and as aids to investigators in finding the law. The enterprise has met with the heartiest endorsement of the Comparative Law Bureau of the American Bar Association."—Extract from the Report of the Library of Congress for 1910-11, Edwin M. Borchard, Library of Congress.

Mr. Borchard is now preparing a guide to the law and legal literature of Germany, which will make a monograph of about 170 pages. It is his plan to publish two monographs a year, taking up the European countries in the order of their importance.

R. H. G.

Picture Shows and Juvenile Crime.—One of the features of the discussion at the state conference of the New York State Society for Prevention of Cruelty to Children and Animals was the moving picture evil. The committee which had the subject in charge reported in part as follows:

"It is not a rare sight to see boys and girls engaged in mimic holdups on the streets, following all the details of the moving picture shows. Amateur burglars have robbed houses exactly as portrayed by the pictures, and one cannot estimate the evil done through mock representations of bloodshed and crime.

"The report of the district attorney of New York for cases brought in the boroughs of Manhattan and the Bronx for the past eleven months shows the following crimes traced directly or indirectly to moving picture shows:

"Unmentionable crimes, 3; aggravated assaults, 32; attempted assaults, 6; abductions, 3; indecent assaults, 3; impairing the morals, 15—a total of sixty-two cases, on which there were forty convictions and thirty-two offenses committed to state's prison."

The picture show may be made an educational factor of great value to boys and girls in the congested districts of our cities, and for that matter in other districts as well. The real problem is, therefore, not how to suppress such exhibitions, but how to supervise and control them.

R. H. G.

"International White Slavery."—Under the above title *The Light* for January, 1912, publishes an address which was delivered by the Hon. James Bronson Reynolds, Assistant District Attorney for New York City, a recognized authority on the international white slave traffic, before the last Sixth International Purity Congress at Columbus, Ohio. Mr. Reynolds sets himself the problem of discussing facts regarding the warfare with this traffic in foreign lands, and to show our relations to this international struggle to anni-

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hilate the traffic. It is not strictly a *white* slave traffic. All colors are involved. Our responsibility and our duty are independent of the color of the victims.

The treaty of Paris, of May 18, 1904, is officially known as the "project of arrangement for the suppression of the white slave traffic." Its ratification is an event deeply significant of the fresh confidence with which the twentieth century is grappling with the great evils which stand in the way of the social and moral progress of mankind. It is the first treaty made by the great powers of the world in relation to social morality. To it all the leading powers of Europe, from Spain to Russia, Turkey alone excepted, gave their adhesion. And with the approval of the Senate, the President of the United States, on June 15, 1908, proclaimed the adhesion of the United States to the treaty. The high contracting powers, to quote the terms of the treaty, "being desirous to assure to women who have attained their majority and are subjected to deception or constraint, as well as minor women and girls, an efficacious protection against the criminal traffic known under the name of trade in white women, have resolved to conclude an arrangement with a view to concert proper measures to attain this purpose."

That the significance of the treaty may be better understood, Mr. Reynolds summarized its most important purposes as follows:

"Article 1. Each of the contracting governments agrees to establish or designate an authority who will be directed to centralize information concerning the procuration of women and girls, for the purpose of their debauchery in a foreign country. That authority shall be empowered to correspond directly with the similar service established in each of the other contracting states.

"Article 2. Each of the governments agrees to exercise supervision of railway stations, ports of embarkation and of women and girls in transit, in order to procure all possible information leading to the discovery of a criminal traffic. The arrival of persons involved in such traffic, as procurers or victims, shall be communicated to diplomatic or consular agents.

"Article 3. The governments agree to inform the authorities of the country of origin of the discovery of such unfortunates and to retain, pending advices, such victims in institutions of public or private charity. Such parties will be returned after proper identification to the country of origin.

"The treaty, therefore, seeks to accomplish four objects: (1) to centralize information regarding the white slave traffic; (2) to provide governmental protection of girls and women traveling from one country to another; (3) to give official protection to the victims of this traffic; (4) to pursue and punish the promoters of the traffic by all the means in the possession of the respective governmental authorities."

It is through the helplessness of the foreign prostitute that the power of the "pimp" has been developed in this country. The rapid development in numbers of these male beasts within recent years in our cities is due to the helplessness of the foreign imported prostitute. Many of them control American girls, but their power rests upon the authority which they so easily exercise over the foreign-born. To prove the conditions, Mr. Reynolds states a few facts from many that have been established by careful authorities: The Marquis of Calboli, the first Secretary of the Embassy of Italy to Paris, stated in 1902 that Italian padrones conveying Italian workmen

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from Italy to France included among them young Italian girls. After these had served the pleasure of their master, being then in a foreign country, they were sold by him to various customers.

"It was stated at the Conference of Amsterdam in 1901 that large numbers of women, estimated at 1,200, were embarked annually from the port of Genoa for South America, for immoral purposes. These came mainly from Austria-Hungary, Russia, Poland and France. South America provided itself with this wicked commodity not only from the countries above named, but from Spain, Portugal and the center of France. Buenos Aires was named as the principal port arrival. Later the traffic was said to have been transferred to Montevideo and Rio Janeiro. Buenos Aires is still a prominent port of entry in South America. London, Liverpool, Southampton, Dublin and Bremen were reported to be ports of embarkation to New York and New Orleans. Austria was declared to be an important market for German and French women. In the Orient, principally in Turkey and Asia, Greek and Italian women were said to be in great demand, and the demand supplied. Constantinople, the great international depot for white slaves, furnished Austrians, Roumanians and Russians. Thirty-three per cent of the prostitutes of Smyrna and Beirut were said to be Austrians. Austria furnished three-fourths of those imported into Egypt.

"According to the statement of a former high officer in the Ottoman army, there is no country in the world where the white slave trade flourishes to the same extent as in Turkey and that to the advantage of the higher classes, and even of the Sultan himself. This statement was, however, made in the reign of Abdul Hamid. The region most exploited is Circassian Russia, covered constantly by recruiting agents; but almost equally active recruiting is done in the interior of the Turkish Empire. The unfortunates of Turkey were said frequently to be passed on to Bombay and Calcutta, thence to the Dutch Indies, landing finally at Batavia or Singapore.

"Many European girls and women are transported to South Africa, notably the Transvaal. In general, Europe is an exporter, and the movement of its traffic in women appears to be principally as follows: To North and South America, to the Orient, with Turkey, Egypt and India as the great landing stations, and finally to South Africa. According to the reports made, Austria held and still holds first place in such exportations, France the second and Italy the third."

The record of white slave traffic from our Pacific Coast to Japan and China presents a still darker page for the reason that we assume to stand before the Orient as pilots and guides to the best results of modern civilization, yet in many Oriental cities the inhabitants have been so accustomed to looking upon the splendidly-gowned American prostitute in her richly-equipped carriage that for them the term "American Girl" has become synonymous with the term "prostitute." A recent action of the American government in refusing protection to these American prostitutes has somewhat relieved the situation. This improvement was due partly to the courage and persistence of an Ohio judge in Shanghai—Judge Wilfley. Since his return to this country, the campaign against these prostitutes in the Orient has been less effective. This iniquity follows all the rules of trade and trade movements. It does not matter whether we can proclaim the existence of an organized syndicate. The statements of leading official and unofficial authorities

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in Europe establish, however, that in some form these traders have social and commercial solidarity through which they achieve easy communication and a business success. They have recognized vocabularies for cablegrams and correspondence and establish way stations of the traffic. They have all those agencies which facilitate the successful handling of the business, promote its expansion and the transportation, delivery and exploitation of the goods.

"Finally, let me offer two general observations regarding the international white slave traffic. If it be true that we are opposing a commercial proposition, then it follows the rules of trade, and the law of supply and demand, and may be injured just as any other trade may be injured. If the occupation of procurer is made more dangerous through executive activity and national legislation, the number entering the traffic will as surely be decreased as in any other occupation which becomes more dangerous. If, as seems to be true, the traffic follows the laws of trade, it follows them to destruction as well as to success.

"The European situation offers also an instructive lesson for us. The fundamental reason for the adoption of an international treaty by the nations of Europe was that national legislation alone was found to be ineffective, the traffic following the lines of least resistance. English women could most safely be debauched by transportation to France; French women more safely exported to Belgium and Holland; and Austrian women to other countries. Thus the procurer and pander selected the channels through which they could safely direct their traffic. It is equally true, though not so well realized, that the necessity for the recent national legislation adopted in this country was created because the panders and procurers of our own country exported their ware from one state to another, realizing that this could be done more safely than by debauching and exploiting their victims in one locality."

When the author of this address some years ago was serving as secretary to the mayor of the city of New York, he made a thorough investigation of the white slave traffic in that city, and in a confidential report which was made to him by one who visited forty employment agencies of New York City, it was stated that the managers of these agencies were quite willing to supply girls for immoral purposes. It is significant, however, that they refused to supply girls for the local demand, but that they very willingly entered into interstate business, because they had found that state laws are ineffective to check interstate activity. We need, therefore, not only local executive activity and state laws, but national laws and executive activity as well. The business which is under discussion is interstate commerce as much as dealing in cattle and hardware, and cannot be successfully opposed without interstate as well as state laws. If this is correct, then Congress has a right and should legislate in this matter. It is for this reason that those who have in hand the responsibility of drafting laws for the consideration of our state legislature should compare their proposed laws with those already established in other states, with a view to obtaining such a degree of uniformity as will most successfully lend itself to coöperation among the states, and, furthermore, if Mr. Reynolds' analysis of the situation is correct, and he is not alone in declaring it, right-thinking people should emphasize before Congress the need of appropriate legislation to bring this traffic under interstate commerce laws.

R. H. G.